



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

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**LOUISVILLE MAN INDICTED FOR RECEIPT
AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville returned an indictment against **JOSEPH CRIST**, age 42, of Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, on charges of knowingly receiving and possessing material containing child pornography that had been mailed, shipped, or transported in interstate or foreign commerce, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252A, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

The Indictment alleges that on April 14, 28, and 29, 2005, Joseph Crist knowingly received child pornography; and that on May 9, 2006 and May 18, 2007, Crist possessed child pornography.

According to the Affidavit of a Senior Special Agent with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), federal agents became aware of Crist's activities as a result of a multi-agency investigation in New Jersey of Regpay, a third-party billing and credit card aggregating company. The investigation revealed that Regpay conspired with other website operators to commercially distribute child pornography by providing other websites with billing and credit card aggregating services, in return taking a percentage of the other websites' illegal proceeds. The investigation also revealed that Regpay itself operated several websites that sold child pornography. As part of the New Jersey Investigation of

Regpay, information housed on various servers that helped facilitate customer transactions for hundreds of websites was seized from several locations in the United States, pursuant to several search warrants. After analyzing the customer data, ICE forensic agents identified over ten thousand purchases of child pornography associated with those websites, specifically over ten thousand confirmed subscriptions which granted purchasers access to those websites and to receive child pornography from those websites between January and July of 2003. One of these subscribers was using the email address JMC2000KY@yahoo.com and was identified as Joseph Crist, in Louisville Kentucky. Agents confirmed that Crist owned the credit card used to pay for the subscription to sites containing child pornography and that he lived at the above-mentioned address.

Thereafter, law enforcement officials interviewed Crist at his home and seized his computer after observing a screen saver slide show containing images of young boys in erotic poses. A forensic examination was conducted on the computer and revealed approximately 1,500 images of child erotica and child pornography. The images found included depictions of a 5-12 year old nude boy lying on a mattress while another young nude boy is straddling him, with an erect adult male penis touching the hand of one of the boys; a 4-7 year old nude boy slouching in a white chair, with what appears to be semen on his torso, stomach and genitals; and a partially clothed young boy, lying on a mattress with his legs spread exposing his genitals and anus to a second nude young boy, who is placing his penis against the first boy's anus.

On May 18, 2007, when law enforcement officials went to Crist's home to arrest him after a Criminal Complaint and Arrest Warrant were filed, they observed a computer and monitor, which were showing a screen saver slide show consisting of images of child erotica. After obtaining a search warrant, law enforcement officials seized this computer. A preliminary forensic examination was conducted on this computer and revealed that the computer contained

child pornography in addition to the images of child erotica. Specifically, the computer contained four, fifteen-minute videos, the focus of which was a nude boy who appeared to be between the ages of 8 and 12. The camera followed the boy through a variety of activities, which seem to take place around the Black Sea. The camera angles focus on the young boy and his genitals.

Crist appeared for an initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge James D. Moyer on May 16, 2007. Judge Moyer scheduled a combination preliminary hearing/detention hearing for May 17, 2007. Crist waived the preliminary hearing and stipulated that there was probable cause for his arrest. A detention hearing was held and continued until May 23, 2007, at which time Judge Moyer ordered Crist detained, finding that he posed a danger to the community which could not be adequately addressed through conditions of release.

Crist is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on June 19, 2007 at 9:30 a.m.

If convicted, Crist faces a mandatory minimum of not less than 5 years imprisonment and a potential penalty of 70 years imprisonment, a \$1,250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of a term of years up to and including life. There is no parole in the federal judicial system.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ann Claire Phillips, and it was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend,

and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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